of forest land for construction of roads, clearance is needed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, which is statutory. The Ministry had further stated that they have delegated powers to their six Regional Offices and in case all information is complete, clearance can be obtained within a period of six weeks. All State Governments have accordingly been advised by this Ministry on 23rd June, 2003 to process such cases well in time and send reports so that the matter can be taken up with the Ministry of Environment and Forests in case of very substantial delay. No such case has been brought to notice subsequently.

Maintenance/repairing of roads

†1678. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) who have been entrusted the work of repair/maintenance of roads and plantations of trees under Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana;

(b) the number of years for which such contracts has been given;

(c) the total length of roads of which plantation of trees has been carried out under this scheme; and

(d) the State-wise details of success rate of such tree plantations schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The road works are executed by State Government Agencies through contracts as per the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Standard Bidding Document (SBD). There is no provision for undertaking repairs under PMGSY. The roads constructed are subjected to a 5 year post construction maintenance as per terms and conditions of the contract and States have to make required budgetary provisions for maintenance. As per the PMGSY Guidelines, planting of fruit bearing and other suitable trees, on both sides of the roads is to be taken up by the State Governments out of their own funds.

(c) and (d) The Tree plantation is carried out by the State Governments out of their own funds. The Ministry does not receive data on the subject.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.